AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-35 **(Previously Canceled)**

36. **(Previously Presented)** A method of facilitating conception of at least one invention, comprising the steps of:

   a) requesting at least one participant to generate a plurality of mess statements each corresponding to a respective goal of the at least one invention;

   b) requesting said at least one participant to generate a plurality of data statements each containing at least one of technical and business information directed to one of:

   i)   said plurality of mess statements;

   ii) a specific technology usable to implement the at least one invention; and

   iii) a market area in which the at least one invention lies;

   c) requesting said at least one participant to generate a plurality of first problem statements as a function of at least one of said respective goals of the at least one invention, each of said plurality of first problem statements containing a first problem to be solved relative to implementing the at least one invention;

   d) requesting said at least one participant to generate a plurality of creativity-stimulating statements each containing a stimulus element;

   e) requesting said at least one participant to associate ones of said plurality of creativity-stimulating element statements with ones of said plurality of first problem statements to facilitate conception of first solutions to said first problems corresponding to the associated ones of said plurality of first problem statements;

   f) requesting said at least one participant to generate at least one second problem statement that contains a second problem that one of prevents and hinders implementing said first solutions; and

   g) requesting said at least one participant to identify at least one second solution to said at least one second problem.

37. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 36, further comprising the step of generating an invention map that shows at least one of said plurality of first problem statements and at least one of said first solutions and one of i) shows, and ii) shows the

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absence of, said at least one second problem statement and said at least one second solution.

38. **(Previously Presented)** A method of facilitating conception of at least one invention, comprising the steps of:

    a) instructing at least one participant on the concepts of:

        i) mess statements being statements reciting particular goals of the invention;

        ii) data statements being statements containing at least one of technical and business information directed to at least one of:

            A) said mess statements;

            B) one or more specific technologies usable to implement the at least one invention; and

            C) one or more market areas in which the at least one invention lies;

        iii) first problem statements being statements containing first problems to be solved in achieving said goals identified in said mess statements; and

        iv) first solution statements containing first solutions to said first problems to be solved identified in said problem statements; and

    b) requesting the at least one participant to input into a computer at least one of the following:

        i) at least one of said mess statements;

        ii) at least one of said data statements;

        iii) at least one of said first problem statements; and

        iv) at least one of said first solution statements.

39. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 38, further comprising:

    a) instructing the at least one participant on the concept of creativity-stimulating statements being statements for stimulating the at least one participant to create said first solutions; and

    b) requesting the at least one participant to input into the computer at least one of said creativity-stimulating statements.

40. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 38, further comprising:

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a) instructing the at least one participant on the concepts of:

    i) second problem statements being statements containing second problems that at least one of prevent or hinder implementation of said first solutions; and

    ii) second solution statements being statements containing second solutions to said second problems; and

b) requesting the at least one participant to input into the computer at least one of said second problem statements and at least one of said second solution statements.

41. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of selecting one or more of said mess statements for creating one or more corresponding ones of said problem statements.

42. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 41, wherein the step of selecting one or more of said mess statements is performed by a facilitator.

43. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 41, wherein step a) includes instructing a plurality of participants and the step of selecting one or more mess statements includes voting for said mess statements by the plurality of participants.

44. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 38, wherein step a) includes instructing a plurality of participants and step b) is performed via a computer network.

45. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 44, wherein step b) is performed via email.

46. **(Previously Presented)** A computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions for performing a method of facilitating conception of at least one invention, the computer-executable instructions comprising:

a) a first set of computer-executable instructions for manipulating a plurality of mess statements each corresponding to a respective goal of the at least one invention;

b) a second set of computer-executable instruction for manipulating a plurality of data statements containing at least one of technical and business information directed to at least one of:

    i) said plurality of mess statements;

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      ii) one or more specific technologies usable to implement the at least one invention;
and

      iii) one or more market areas in which the at least one invention lies;

c) a third set of computer-executable instructions for manipulating a plurality of first problem statements each containing a problem to be solved in achieving said respective goals of the at least one invention;

d) a fourth set of computer-executable instructions for manipulating a plurality of creativity-stimulating element statements each for stimulating first solutions to said problems to be solved identified in said plurality of first problem statements;

e) a fifth set of computer-executable instructions for manipulating a plurality of second problem statements identifying corresponding respective second problems that each one of prevent and hinder implementation of ones of said first solutions;

f) a sixth set of computer-executable instructions for manipulating a plurality of solution statements containing second solutions to said second problems; and

g) a seventh set of computer-executable instructions for generating an invention map that shows at least one of said plurality of first problem statements and at least one of said first solutions and one of i) shows, and ii) shows the absence of, said at least one second problem statement and said at least one second solution.

47. **(Previously Presented)** A computer-readable medium according to claim 46, further comprising an eighth set of computer-executable instructions for permitting selection of one or more of said plurality of mess statements for use in generating said plurality of first problem statements.

48. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-readable medium according to claim 47, wherein said eighth set of computer-executable instructions includes computer-executable instructions for allowing a ~~facilitation~~ facilitator to select said one or more of said plurality of mess statements.

49. **(Previously Presented)** A computer-readable medium according to claim 47, wherein said eighth set of computer-executable instructions includes computer-executable

instructions for allowing a plurality of participants to vote on said plurality of mess statements.

50. **(Previously Presented)** A computer-readable medium according to claim 46, further comprising a ninth set of computer-executable instructions for soliciting a plurality of participants to input ones of said plurality of problem statements into a computer.

51. **(Previously Presented)** A computer-readable medium according to claim 50, wherein said ninth set of computer-executable instructions includes computer executable instructions for soliciting said plurality of participants by email.

52. **(Previously Presented)** A computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions implementing a method of facilitating conception of at least one invention, the method utilizing:
    i)   mess statements each corresponding to a respective goal of the at least one invention;
    ii) problem statements each containing a problem to be solved in achieving one or more of the respective goal of the at least one invention; and
    iii) solution statements each containing a solution corresponding to one of the problems;

the computer-executable instructions comprising:

a) a first set of computer-executable instructions for providing a first input field for receiving one of the mess statements and for providing a first label identifying the first input field as a mess statement input field;

b) a second set of computer-executable instructions for providing a second input field and providing a second label identifying the second input field as a problem statement input field; and

c) a third set of computer-executable instructions for providing a third input field and providing a third label identifying the third input field as a solution input field.

53. **(Previously Presented)** A system for facilitating conception of at least one invention in a directed manner, comprising:

a) a computer processor; and

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b) a storage device, in operative communication with said computer processor, containing computer-executable instructions for controlling said computer processor in a predetermined manner and containing:

   i)   a first set of instructions for manipulating a plurality of mess statements each corresponding to a respective goal of the at least one invention;

   ii) a second set of instructions for manipulating a plurality of data statements each containing at least one of technical and business information directed to one of:

      A) said plurality of mess statements;

      B) a specific technology usable to implement the at least one invention; and

      C) a market area in which the at least one invention lies;

   iii) a third set of instructions for manipulating a plurality of first problem statements each containing a problem to be solved in order to achieve one or more of said respective goals of the at least one invention;

   iv) a fourth set of instructions for manipulating a plurality of creativity-stimulating element statements each for stimulating generation of first solutions to said problems to be solved identified in said plurality of first problem statements;

   v)   a fifth set of instructions for manipulating a plurality of second problem statements identifying corresponding respective second problems that each one of prevent and hinder implementation of ones of said first solutions;

   vi) a sixth set of instructions for manipulating a plurality of solution statements containing second solutions to said second problems; and

   vii) a seventh set of instructions for generating an invention map that shows at least one of said plurality of first problem statements and at least one of said first solutions and one of i) shows, and ii) shows the absence of, said at least one second problem statement and said at least one second solution.

54. **(Previously Presented)** A system according to claim 53, wherein said storage device further contains an eighth set of computer-executable instructions for permitting selection of one or more of said plurality of mess statements for use in generating said plurality of first problem statements.

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55. **(Currently Amended)** A system according to claim 54, wherein said eighth set of computer-executable instructions includes computer-executable instructions for allowing a ~~facilitation~~ facilitator to select said one or more of said plurality of mess statements.

56. **(Previously Presented)** A system according to claim 54, wherein said eighth set of computer-executable instructions includes computer-executable instructions for allowing a plurality of participants to vote on said plurality of mess statements.

57. **(Previously Presented)** A system according to claim 53, wherein said storage device further contains a ninth set of computer-executable instructions for soliciting a plurality of participants to input ones of said plurality of problem statements into a computer.

58. **(Previously Presented)** A system according to claim 57, wherein said ninth set of computer-executable instructions includes instructions for soliciting said plurality of participants by email.

59. **(Previously Presented)** A system, comprising a computer containing computer executable instructions implementing a method of facilitating conception of at least one invention, the method utilizing:

    i)   mess statements each corresponding to a respective goal of the at least one invention;

    ii) problem statements each containing a problem to be solved in achieving one of said respective goals of the at least one invention; and

    iii) solution statements, each containing a solution corresponding to one of the problems;

the computer executable instructions comprising:

a) a first set of computer-executable instructions for providing a first input field and providing a first label identifying the first input field as a mess statement input field;

b) a second set of computer-executable instructions for providing a second input field and providing a second label identifying the second input field as a problem statement input field; and

c) a third set of computer-executable instructions for providing a third input field and providing a third label identifying the third input field as a solution input field.

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